

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
North side of Middlesex Avenue at  
the corner of Oak Avenue  
Metuchen  
Middlesex County  
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-711

HABS  
NJ  
12-METU  
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HABS

N.J.

12-MET U.

3'

Location: North side of Middlesex Avenue at the corner  
of Oak Avenue, Metuchen, Middlesex County,  
New Jersey

Present Owner  
and Occupant: Diocese of New Jersey

Present Use: Church

Brief Statement  
of Significance: This small wooden Gothic Revival church was  
built in 1868 and is well maintained.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owner: Diocese of New Jersey.
2. Date of erection: Built in 1868; the church was incorporated in November 1866 [Church Minutes, page 195].
3. Notes on alterations and additions: An extension to the choir was made in 1936--C. W. Fairweather, Architect. At that time the reredos was cut down and a stained glass window installed above the altar.
4. Important old views: The church has a photograph showing the original building before the apse was extended. The name and date (1869) has been hand printed on the matt, all enclosed in an oval wood frame. A copy of this photograph is included in this book. There are other unmounted photographs available for copying.
5. Sources of Information: Interview with Dr. William H. Fryer, Rector, by George B. Howell, February 11, 1960. Old Map of Metuchen, Middlesex County, New Jersey, by P. Sours, Civil Engineer, published by W. C. Dripps, 103 Fulton Street, New York, 1876. Church Minutes, page 195.

B. Historical Events Connected with Structure: None.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is a small wooden Gothic Revival building.

2. Condition of fabric: Well maintained.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Layout: The building is rectangular in shape with a small enclosed entrance porch and a recently added chancel. A tiny bell tower sits astride the ridge of a steeply pitched, wood-shingled, gable roof at the front end of the building.
2. Wall construction: The walls are sheathed with vertical wood boards with molded batten strips.
3. Eaves: The roof has wide overhanging eaves at both ends and sides. The end eaves are supported by exposed trusses treated decoratively with a pierced verge board effect. The piercings are of various Gothic shapes: tre-foils, quatre-foils, sept-foils, and lancets.
4. Porch: The porch is enclosed and covered with a steep wood-shingled roof of the same pitch as the main roof and a similar treatment to its heavy overhang.
5. Tower: The tower is very small, starting with a wide spread shingled base. Above this is an open bell section with bracket-headed posts at the four corners, which in turn support a wood-shingled spire with a flaired base. At the apex of the tower is a gilded cross.
6. Windows: There are five pointed-arched windows on each side elevation and two narrower ones on the facade flanking the entrance porch. A rosette window is just above the ridge of the porch roof. A large, three-part, Gothic-arched window has been set in the rear wall of the addition above the altar. All sash have leaded glass in geometric patterns.
7. Steps: Recently a blue-stone platform and steps with wrought-iron railings have been installed in front of the entrance porch.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The building consists of one room, a nave with deep choir, entered from the closed porch. The choir is reduced in width and has a raised floor and a side bay for the organ console. The pews face each other within the choir. The pulpit is at one side of the nave, in front of the choir.
2. Walls: Plastered, with slight reveal to a molded frame around the windows.

3. Ceiling: The ceiling has partially exposed scissors trusses and is ceiled with wood sheathing. The wood ceiling is angled at the sides and flat across the top.
4. Flooring: All floors are wood.
5. Lighting: Modern, electric.

Prepared by George Brokaw Howell  
Architect, Rutgers, the State University (ret.)  
February 1960